

REMARKS

- Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.
- Claims 1-7 are rejected.
- Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).
- Claims 1 and 6 have been amended.
- Claims 8-12 are new.
- No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Soneda, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,856,918 (“Soneda”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 4 and 5, and claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 7.

In addition, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that the control signal, which controls the switches (SW1 and SW2), and the boosting level control signal (BCON) are able to operate independently of each other. No new matter is added. Support for these amendments can be found, among other locations, in FIGS. 1-3. For example, In FIG. 1, the boosting level control signal is output by an external supply voltage detector (10), which operates independently of the control signal that controls the switches SW1 and SW2. The boosting level control signal is logically combined with another input (IN) to determine the voltage level of the driving node (N1). Note that the control signal *does not* affect the voltage level of the driving node (N1), and this is the idea of the claim amendments.

In contrast, Soneda has a single signal line, responsive to CLK3, controlling all the gates of PT1-PT3, which may act as switches. Soneda shows a node K1 at the input of a first capacitor C1, and this node may thus be considered to be a driving node. The voltage level of this driving node K1 is responsive to the same signal that *also* controls the switches SW1 and SW2. For at least this reason, Soneda does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 6, as well as their dependent claims. Applicants therefore request allowance of these claims.

New Claims

Each new dependent claim 8-12, in addition to the reasons explained above, is not anticipated by Soneda.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

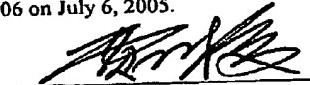
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